

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SAM-01 DRC-01 IO-03 CIAE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-14 /062 W

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R 101536Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 730

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USMISSION NATO

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PO

SUBJ: "CITIZEN" MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF STATE NAMED

REF: A) LISBON 4352; B) LISBON 4360; C) LISBON 4363

1. OCTOBER 10 LISBON PRESS CARRIES REPORT THAT PROF. JOSE JOAQUIM TEIXEIRA RIBEIRO, RECTOR OF UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA, HAS ACCEPTED PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES' INVITATION TO BECOME ONE OF (SEVEN) "CITIZEN" MEMBERS OF COUNCIL OF STATE. RIBEIRO IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR OCT. 15. HE THEREBY WILL FILL ONE OF TWO VACANCIES ON COUNCIL CREATED BY RESIGNATIONS OF COL. RAFAEL DURAO AND LTC. ALMEIDA BRUNO, SPINOLA SUPPORTERS WHO INSISTED ON LEAVING AFTER SPINOLA'S RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENCY (REF A).

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2. TEIXEIRA RIBEIRO WAS BORN NEAR BRAGA ON OCTOBER 4, 1908.

HE WAS EDUCATED IN NORTH, RECEIVING LAW DEGREE FROM UNIV. COIMBRA. PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE THAT, WHILE A LAW PROFESSOR AT COIMBRA, HE SUPPORTED STUDENT POSITION DURING UNIVERSITY DISTURBANCES IN 1969 AND AGAIN IN 1971/72. HE WAS "ELECTED" UNIVERSITY RECTOR AFTER APRIL 25.

3. AMCONSUL OPORTO REPORTS THAT TEIXEIRA RIBEIRO IS WIDELY KNOWN AND HIGHLY RESPECTED BY MEMBERS OF PARTIDO POPULAR DEMOCRATICO (PPD) IN NORTH. HIS REPUTATION IS THAT OF A MAN OF UNQUESTIONED INTEGRITY, COMPETENCE (AS A DISTINGUISHED LEGAL SCHOLAR), POLITICALLY OF THE CENTER AND A THOROUGH DEMOCRAT. HE PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN LIFE OF FIRST PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC, BEING THE AUTHOR OF FISCAL CODE WRITTEN BEFORE ADVENT OF SALAZAR ERA. HE WAS APPOINTED ACTING UNIVERSITY RECTOR ON APRIL 29 BY THE MILITARY COMMANDER OF COIMBRA, AN APPOINTMENT WHICH WAS LATER CONFIRMED AND ACCEPTED WITH PRAISE BY BOTH FACULTY MEMBERS AND STUDENTS.

4. COMMENT: THIS APPOINTMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH TREND ALREADY APPARENT (REFS A, B, C) OF KEEPING TOP GOP GOVERNING BODY SLOTS IN HANDS OF SOLID, RESPECTED INDIVIDUALS WHOSE POLITICAL BACKGROUNDS CAN BE IDENTIFIED AS MODERATE TO LIBERAL.
SCOTT

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